



Paula Marie Gillis

June 5, 1981 - October 19, 2020

Gillis, Paula Marie, October 19, 2020 age 39 of Royal Oak. Beloved daughter of David and Laura Gillis. Loving sister of Michael. Also leaves many aunts, uncles and cousins. Paula attended Divine Child High school and earned her bachelors degree in mechanical engineering from U of D Mercy. She was proud to be a Tri Sigma and she was close to her sorority sisters. She took great pride in working for the US Army. Paula was very creative, witty and passionate about the Red Wings, baking, scrapbooking and loved wine tasting. She had a photo graphic memory so everyone wanted her on their trivia team. Her family and friends always felt her love will forever miss and love her. Visitation Wednesday, October 21st 5-8 PM and Thursday, October 22nd 12-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Rosary Thursday 6:30 PM. In state Friday, October 23rd 9:30 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. Anselm Catholic Church, 17650 W. Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127. The Funeral Mass will be livestreamed on Teams, Inc. beginning at 10:15 AM https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWY1OTgxNzMtNzk3ZC00ZmJiLTlmNWEtMzVhYzY5OTI0MzVm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbb9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22cbd957c3-c4f8-484b-ab9e-92d751c4e9b9%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%22%7d Interment St. Hedwig Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Detroit Red Wings Foundation. Donations accepted online only, DRWFoundation@Hockeytown.com To share a memory,

please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

St Hedwig Cemetery

23755 Military Road
Dearborn Heights, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

In state

OCT **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Anselm Catholic Church
17650 W. Outer Drive
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Funeral Mass

OCT **23**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Anselm Catholic Church
17650 W. Outer Drive
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Tribute Wall



“ *Paula Marie Gillis*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



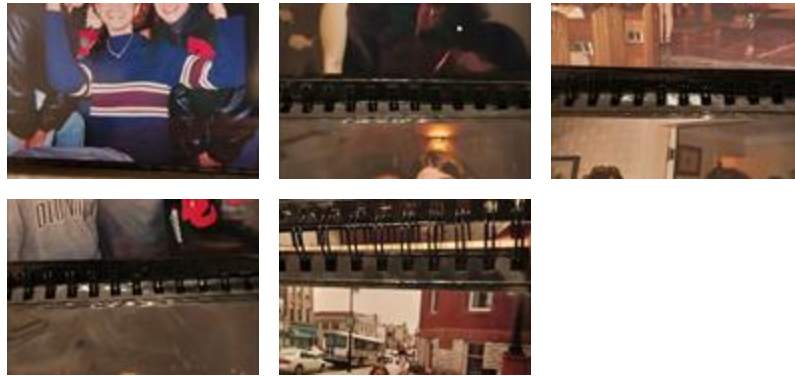
“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 26, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ *These pics of us throughout high school come from a sweet album Paula made me for my 18th birthday. ❤️*



Candice Nalley - October 23, 2020 at 03:20 PM

“ To my dear friend: I have been thinking about the term "best friend" and realized I am fortunate to have had 6 or 7 "best friends" throughout my life. You were certainly one of them: my high school best friend. 25 years ago, we were seated next to each other in homeroom Day 1 of freshman year -- Gillis and Graham. I don't recall how we first started talking. That was probably all you! I'm sure we quickly discovered that we were both in honors classes and were both part of the band. And the rest is history. We were fast friends. I remember at Christmastime that year, you lamented that my name was **really** hard to fit on a mini-socking (in glitter, of course), but your crafty self did it anyway. I'm sure you'll be happy to know that mini-socking still sheds glitter on us every year. I'm not crafty, but I repaid the glitter debt by **surprise!** showering you with glitter on your birthday as you walked out of your Algebra final that year. Hehehe. I could share so many stories from our mutual activities -- Prop Crew for *The Crucible*, the Ford "Exploring" program that we giggled our way through, band, NHS, the band trips to Disney and NYC (during Fleet Week!), school dances, and so many classes together. Once we could drive, we had a whole other set of excursions: movies (sooo many movies!), dinners, late nights at Denny's. No matter what, laughter and your biting wit were constants. I always admired your abilities to converse comfortably with people you just met and to come up with the perfect quip to break the ice or retort to put someone in their place. You always stood up for yourself and your friends, and I loved that about you. No one wanted to be on the wrong side of **that look** -- the one where your eyes narrowed to slits, your head tilted down a little, and your face was set to a withering expression of disapproval. *THAT* look. Classic Paula! I also loved how you could eat a meal or dessert at a restaurant or see a cool bit of decor and say "I bet I could make this at home." And then you *WOULD*, and it would turn out fabulously. You had so much talent, confidence, and the mental tenacity to never back down from a challenge.



I am sorry that we weren't as close in recent years. We constantly had "plans" to see each other, and I'm not sure why we didn't make it happen. Maybe because we were both such procrastinators! Our favorite line? "Procrastinators will unite! But we'll get around to it later." Neither of us thought there wouldn't be a "later." And I'm so profoundly sad about that. Sad that I took such a wonderful friendship for granted. That I didn't call you more often to tell you how much I valued our friendship, how important you were to me, and how much I loved you. That I let Facebook "likes" and comments and Christmas cards be the sum of our recent exchanges. I'm sorry, Paula.

Today, I celebrate you: your intelligence, your beauty, your vivacious personality, your generosity, your snark, and your never-ending love for your family and friends. You touched so many lives, and we are all better for having known you, Paula. Thank you for your love and friendship. For making me feel from Day 1 that I always had someone I could confide in. For challenging me to come out of my shell and let loose sometimes. I will miss you fiercely and will always mourn the loss of the times we never had. In your memory, I will hug my family more; call, text, email, and see my friends more. I will tell the people I love how I feel about them. I will sing, dance, and laugh more. I will teach my kids how to bake. And maybe I'll make a craft or two. With glitter.

I love you, Paula. Farewell for now.

Candice Nalley - October 23, 2020 at 12:51 PM

B(

“ Remembering how FUN Paula was in our time together at UDM❤️ Passing the torch of KDR sweetheart on your her and watching her really Love the guys with all her heart...she was THE KDR sweetheart. Praying for her parents, family and close friends today as final earthly goodbyes are said. Till we see each other again Paula❤️



Becky Langrill (Smith) - October 23, 2020 at 09:51 AM

GL

“ My deepest condolences to Paula's parents and brother. May God give you His peace.

I will miss Paula at work and hearing her say "and this is why we can't have nice things!"

Gale Litrichin - October 22, 2020 at 07:23 PM

EW

“ Paula was so much fun, very smart, and had a fierce sense of humor. We shared some wonderful times in the choirs and musicals together back in high school. May God grant her family peace during this devastating time that makes no sense and seems so unfair to all of us all left behind.

Elizabeth Walkowiak - October 22, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 22, 2020 at 12:05 PM

JT

“ I remember Paula from Divine Child High School. She was a sweet girl. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Jocelyn Troher 98’



Jocelyn Troher - October 22, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 22, 2020 at 09:33 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 22, 2020 at 09:25 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 21, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ *Luann Garchow lit a candle in memory of Paula Marie Gillis*



Luann Garchow - October 21, 2020 at 08:15 PM



“ *My dear friend, my heart is broken. The memories are flooding back ... many years at TRW together, Orangeville, bowling, karaoke, Red Wings games ... you were always there for me. Sending your parents and your brother so much love right now.*

Julie - October 21, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ *Dr Geoff Prysak and Dr Jack Artinian purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



Dr Geoff Prysak and Dr Jack Artinian - October 21, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 21, 2020 at 04:31 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 21, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to all who knew and loved Paula. I worked with Paula, and have nothing but fond memories and great respect for her knowledge and wit. She was a gem, and will be missed.

Stacy Budzik - October 21, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ I did not know Paula very well. We worked in the same organization though in different groups. Paula and I took the same 3-day class back in Fall 2016, the class was held at Macomb community college in Warren. She sat one row in front of me. At that time she was moving from the Warren office to Selfridge base. Paula came across as bubbly and very intelligent. To Paula's family and friends, I am truly sorry for your loss. It is unfair and very sad to lose such a young vibrant human being. May all of you have peace and comfort and may Paula's soul rest in peace.

Lubna Khaled-Novelos - October 21, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 21, 2020 at 12:36 PM

BL

“ I worked with Paula for several years on the Project Recon Risk Management software and what an experience it was. Her commitment to excellence was steadfast and she set a great example of standing up for her standards and beliefs. One showdown between Paula and the contractor on how a formula was calculated was impressive and I learned a valuable lesson that day, no matter how much someone blusters, do not back down and believe in your knowledge.

Paula's razor sharp wit and humor was wonderful and fearsome, you never knew what she would say next. It was guaranteed if you had a conversation with her, there would be laughter involved. She will be greatly missed at work.

Bonnie Leece

Bonnie Leece - October 21, 2020 at 09:56 AM

NB

“ Nichole Biter purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



Nichole Biter - October 20, 2020 at 11:02 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 20, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ *Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 20, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ *Your cousins, Kris, Susie, and Kathy purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



Your cousins, Kris, Susie, and Kathy - October 20, 2020 at 07:41 PM



“ *Lelek, Habel, Phillips, Tarnowski families purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



Lelek, Habel, Phillips, Tarnowski families - October 20, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Alex Goodman - October 20, 2020 at 06:20 PM



Paula will be missed greatly. A delightful presence in any setting, her absence will be felt many many. Love and healing to her family.

Alex Goodman - October 20, 2020 at 06:27 PM

WR

“ With love, Aunt Marlene & Uncle Ron purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



With love, Aunt Marlene & Uncle Ron - October 20, 2020 at 06:18 PM

JM

“ Several colleagues and I had opportunity to work with Paula on various projects and many testing trips over the past 5+ years. She was always professional, logical and smart, but perhaps more importantly (at least to me), always humorous, appropriately sarcastic and generally fun to be with despite some very trying settings and situations. I know that she will be greatly missed by all who knew her and my prayers and sympathy extend to her family and friends whom I've never had the opportunity to meet.

I will be unable to attend the visitation or Funeral Mass in person, but I would like to join the recitation of the Rosary in spirit. I'll check back to see if a time is posted for tomorrow, otherwise will give it my best guess!

God Bless all that remain down here and I'm quite sure that Paula is enjoying her time up above already.

P.S. We always had a healthy Red Wings/Flyers rivalry. I'm now concerned that the Flyers don't stand a chance!

John-Paul McGovern - October 20, 2020 at 05:38 PM

MA

“ *An angel who will be missed dearly. May God bless all of you and her everlasting brilliant light guide us all.*
Love, Marlene and Ron

Marlene August - October 20, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 20, 2020 at 05:20 PM

GF

“ *Ground Vehicle Survivability & Protection friends purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



Ground Vehicle Survivability & Protection friends - October 20, 2020 at 04:32 PM

AG

“ *Arthur Griffin, Jr (TACOM GVSC) purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



Arthur Griffin, Jr (TACOM GVSC) - October 20, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 20, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



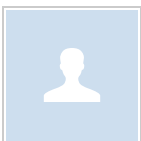
October 20, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ *We knew Paula through my son Roman and daughter-in-law, Katie Wonsul, her best friend. A dear, sweet, loving person, who gave generously of her time and affection. Her warm, bubbly personality and ever-present smile brightened a room. And so smart. She is gone too soon and will be so missed by our family.*

Juliane and George Wonsul

Juliane Wonsul - October 20, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ *Deepest Faith* was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.



October 20, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 20, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 20, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ *I have such fond memories of Paula and her family when we met through St. Anselm parish/school. She was always so happy to be involved in everything with smiles and determination. We send all our love and prayers to her family at this very difficult time.*

Kathy Atkin and Family

Kathleen Atkin - October 20, 2020 at 02:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 20, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



October 20, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ *Virginia Sebolt purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Paula Marie Gillis.*



Virginia Sebolt - October 20, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ *You are gone too soon and you've left the world a bit more dimmer. You were so full of life and love. You will be missed my sister, my friend.*

*SLAM
Virginia*

Virginia Sebolt - October 20, 2020 at 01:10 PM